Towards Person-Centered, Integrated Long-Term Care: Models, Principles, and Practice

Age increases the risk of many health conditions, which can often significantly impact intrinsic capacity, defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as the composite of an individual's physical and mental capacities. The latter half of life can be best characterized by three nonexclusive trajectories of functional ability ranging from high and sustained capacity, declining capacity, and significant loss of capacity.

Declines in physical and mental capacity can limit older people's ability to care for themselves and participate in society. Approximately two-thirds of people who achieve older age are likely to need care and support from others at some point, to perform activities of daily living. Such needs may arise suddenly, as a consequence of an acute problem or event, or may develop gradually over time. Irrespective of why a person might need long-term care, many health and social care systems around the world are currently unable to deliver long-term care services and support to older people who need it.

The year 2025 marks the midpoint of the United Nations (UN) Decade of Healthy Ageing ('the Decade'), calling for a deep dive into action areas, including the critical role played by countries in providing health and long-term care services to maintain the health and well-being that older people need to be and do what they value. According to the Decade's progress report, 2021-2023, only around 1 in 4 reporting countries have enough financial and political resources to implement integrated care responsive to older people's needs, and only 1 in 3 have the same for long-term care. Among reporting countries, less than 60% include long-term care in their national competency framework for geriatric care workers. In many countries, long-term care continues to rely heavily on informal mechanisms that are unsustainable and lack sufficient support.

Aligned with the WHO Long-term care framework and Integrated Care for Older People (ICOPE), this session addresses the pivotal role of long-term care in safeguarding the rights and dignity of older adults and individuals facing significant loss of capacity. This symposium brings together experts to explore the intersection of best-practice models and guiding principles to inform policy and practice change in older persons' care. Through effective and innovative approaches, the meeting offers opportunities to catalyze future progress on the Decade's Action Area 4: *providing access to long-term care for older people who need it*.

Featured Symposium Towards Person-Centered, Integrated Long-Term Care: Models, Principles, and Practice 12 September 2025 1:30- 3pm	
Moderator	Professor Isabella Aboderin, Perivoli Chair in Africa Research and Partnerships, School for Policy Studies, University of Bristol
Expert Panelists	Dr Kiran Rabheru, Chair of the Board, International Longevity Centre Canada (ILCC) Chair, Canadian Coalition Against Ageism (CCAA)
	Dr. Rayne Stroebel – CEO, Geratec; International Longevity Centre South Africa
	Dr. Stefania Ilinca – Technical Officer, WHO Regional Office for Europe (Romania) - TBC
	Mr Tom Symondson, CEO Ageing Australia
	TBC